

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

February 13, 2007

One of the core mission activities of the Department of Children and Family Services is to conduct foster home inspections prior to placement of any child under the responsibility of the Department. The timeliness of these federally mandated inspections – called Adoption and Safe Family Act (ASFA) inspections - has historically been less than adequate since the requirement was first implemented in 1999.

We have paid the price for this through federal penalties that are costing the County on average up to \$800,000 per month for delayed reassessments, and the children we are responsible for have paid the price with their safety and, in certain cases, with their lives. The Sarah C. case certainly comes to mind as a tragic example of this, as the required ASFA home inspection was conducted after she had been in the placement for eight months: in the home of the relatives who stand accused of murdering her.

It has now come to my attention that this shortcoming is having a serious impact on our ability to retain projected savings under the Title IV-E Waiver, which only further exacerbates an already frustrating dilemma.

Simply put: this problem is costing the County money and is putting children at serious risk. I believe it would be worthwhile to examine this issue more closely and develop a comprehensive solution that will fix the ASFA problem once and for all.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to work in coordination with the Chief Administrative Office and the Auditor-Controller and report back in 30 days on the following:

1. A full scope review of the issues impacting the Department's ability to conduct both initial and annual Adoption and Safe Family Act (ASFA) home inspections in a timely manner.
2. A comprehensive plan – including performance measures – that will effectively address the problem.
3. A "Prop A" review of the ASFA functions and an assessment as to the feasibility and cost effectiveness of contracting this function out.

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